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27/11, கிருபா சங்கரி தெரு, மேற்கு மாம்பலம், சென்னை-33 ஐ தலைமை அலுவலமாக கொண்டு இயங்கும் தமிழ்நாடு பிராமணர் சங்கம்,

மேற்கு மாம்பலம் நீண்ட காலமாக தனித்து இயங்குகிறது எனவும் இதே பெயர் கொண்ட மற்ற சங்கங்களுடன் தொடர்பு இல்லை எனவும் தெரிவிக்கப்படுகிறது. பொது மக்கள் மற்றும் உறுப்பினர்கள் எங்கள் சங்கத்தை பற்றியோ, நிர்வாகிகள் பற்றியோ பரப்பப்படும் வதந்திகளை நம்பவேண்டாம் என கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம். மேலும், தற்பொழுதுள்ள தலைவர் மற்றும் நிர்வாக குழுவுடன் எங்கள் சேவைகள் தொடரும் என தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறோம். அனைவரும் எப்போதும் போல ஆதரவளிக்குமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம்.

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ஜே.எஸ். ராகவன்

காலண்டர் புதுசு, கதை பழசு!

'ஆரோக்யா மெடிக்கல்ஸ், ஆதித்யா அடுமனை, ராஜாத்தி உள்ளாடை உலகம் காலண்டரெல்லாம் வந்தாச்சு. பத்திரமாக வெச்சிருக்கேன் அண்ணா.'

'சிவசாமி! அதை ஏன் மறைச்சு வெச்சிருக்கே? 'லோன் ரேஞ்ஜர்' மல்லையாவோட ப்ருவரில் காலண்டர்னா சரி, வயசுப் பெண்கள் காத்தாட இருக்கிற மாதிரி போட்டிருப்பார். 3000 கோடிகள் லோன் பணத்திலேயிருந்து அவங்களுக்கு டிரெஸ் வாங்க சல்லிக் காசு கொடுக்க மாட்டார் போலிருக்கு. சிவசாமி, இந்த வருஷமும் சொல்லப் போறேன். வீட்டிலே காலண்டரை மாட்ட ஒரு ஆணிகூட அடிக்கக் கூடாது, ஆமாம்.'

'அப்படியே செஞ்சுடறது அண்ணா. 'செய்யக்கூடாதுங்கறேன். அப்படியே செஞ்சுடறதுங்கறே?'

'இல்லை அண்ணா. நீங்க மாட்டக் கூடாதுன்னு சொன்னதை அப்படியே செஞ்சுடறதுன்னு சொன்னேன்.'

'குழப்பாதேடா... பெயின்டர் நாராயணசாமி பட்டி பார்த்து இஞ்ச் இஞ்ச்சா மெனக்கெட்டு வெள்ளை அடிச்சிருக்கார். ஒரு சிலைடை உண்டு இல்லை?'

'அதுவா அண்ணா. 'A calendar's days are numbered!'

'அந்தக் காலத்திலே காலண்டர்கள் அவ்வளவா கிடைக்காது. கைலாசத்திலே சிவபெருமான் பக்கத்திலே பார்வதி, மூத்தவர் கணபதி, இளையவர் சுப்ரமணியர், அப்புறம் நந்திகேஸ்வரர் எல்லாம் குடும்பத்தோட குரூப்பா ஃபோட்டோ ஷூட்டுக்கு உட்கார்ந்த மாதிரி ஒரு பளபள, வழவழ பேப்பரிலே பெரிய காலண்டர் கண்களைப் பறிக்கிற மாதிரி இருக்கும். லால்சந்த் அண்டு கோவோ ஏதோ ஒரு பாம்பே கம்பெனியோடதுன்னு குமருமன்னு ஞாபகம். எங்கப்பா அது மாதிரி வேணும்னு அடம் பிடிச்சார். என்னுடைய சித்தப்பா ஒரு விவகார மான ஆள். அடிக்கடி ரோஸுக்குப் போவார். 'மளிகை வாங்கணும், மருந்து வாங்கணும்'னு புருடா விட்டுட்டு அஞ்சோ, பத்தோ, அதோட ஒரு அறையோ வாங்கிண்டு குதிரை மேலே கட்டி, தோத்துப் போய்த் திரும்பி அடுத்த அறைக்கு மறு கன்னத்தைக் காட்டத் தயாராக வருவார். காலண்டர் விஷயத்தைக் கேள்விப்பட்டவர், 'அண்ணா, இரண்டு நாளிலே இங்கே வந்துடும் பாருங்கோ' என்று அடுத்த ஐந்து ரூபாயை வாங்கிண்டு போனார்.' அப்புறம் என்ன ஆச்சு தெரியுமா?'

'நீங்க சொன்னால்தானே தெரியும் அண்ணா.'

'சொல்றேன். அடுத்த இரண்டாவது நாள் பரமசிவன் அண்டு ஃபாமிலி படம் வந்துடுத்து. ஆனால் காலண்டராக இல்லை. பிரேம் போட்ட படமாக. எங்கப்பாவுக்குத் தலைகால் புரியலை. 'நீ எத்தன்டா'னு சித்தப்பாவுக்கு சர்ட்டிக்கேட்டும் லம்ப்பா நூறு ரூபாயும் கொடுத்தார்.'

'அப்படியா அண்ணா.'

'என்னுடைய சித்தப்பா பாட்டு வாத்தியார் பரமசிவன் வீட்டிலேயிருந்து சிவன் படத்தை எப்படியோ ஆட்டை போட்டு, பின்னாடி விவகாரம் வராமல் இருக்க பிரேம் போட்டுக்கொண்டு வந்து கொடுத்திருக்கார். பரம

சிவன் இந்த விஷயத்தை மோப்பம் பிடித்து எங்க வீட்டுக்கு வந்து குதிக்க, எங்கப்பா குன்னிப் போனார். சித்தப்பாவோ அது வேற இது வேறென்னு கல்லுணி மங்களாய் சாதிச்சார். கடைசியில் என்ன ஆச்சு தெரியுமா? பரமசிவன் லாருக்குப் படத்துக்கு டடாக ஒரு வெள்ளி விபூதி சம்படத்தைக் கொடுத்து சாந்தப்படுத்தினார். ஆனால் அந்தப் படத்தைப் பூஜை அறையில் மாட்டாமல் பரண் மேலே போட்டுட்டார். காரணம்? 'சிவன் சொத்து குல நாசம்'னு சொல்ற துடன்னு சொல்லிட்டார். அதிலேயிருந்து எனக்குக் காலண்டர்னா ஒரு அலர்ஜி.'

'அண்ணா பதில் மரியாதையாக நான் ஒரு காலண்டர் சம்பவத்தை சொல்லவேண்டா நான் சிவசாமியாக இருக்க லாயக்கில்லை.'

'ஆகட்டுமா காராபூந்தி கொண்டு வந்தால் கொறிச்சிண்டே கேக்க சுவாரஸ்யமாக இருக்கும்.'

சிவசாமி அவன் பங்குக்குத் தன்னுடைய காலண்டர் விருத்தாந்தத்தைப் பின்வருமாறு சொல்லுவான்:

'அண்ணா, உங்க சிவபெருமான் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட கதையிலே அர்ச்சனை பண்ணித் தபாலிலே வர விபூதி பிரசாத கவர் மாதிரி வாசனை வீசியது. ஆனால் என் சமாச்சாரம் வேற. லௌகீகமானது. லௌ-ஃதமானதுன்னு கூட சொல்லலாம்.'

'போடு' என்றார் பஞ்சாமி குஷியுடன் 'சொந்த சிலைடையா?'

'ஏதோ ஒரு வேகத்திலே வந்துடுத்து. அண்ணா மன்னிக்கணும். நான் எங்க மாமாவோட பராமரிப்பிலே இருந்தேன். அவர் சரியான குஷால் பேர்வழி. அந்தக் கால சினிமா நடிக்கைகளைப் பார்க்கணும் என்றால் கோடம்பாக்கம் ரயில்வே கேட்டிலே போய் நிற்க வேண்டாம். எல்லோருடைய படக் காலண்டர்களும் அவருடைய ரூமில் இருக்கும். மாமி ஒரு நாள் தாங்க முடியாமல், 'டேய் சிவசாமி, அதை எல்லாம் கிழிச்சுப் போட்டுடா, ச்சை! சகிக்கலே'னு உத்தரவு போட்டார்.'

'நான் திகைச்சேன். நான் இருக்கிறது மாமா நிழலிலே. அவர் ஆசையாக மாட்டின காலண்டர்களைக் கிழிக்கிறது அவர் போட்ட கோட்டைக் கிழிச்ச மாதிரி ஆயிரமேன்னு.'

'அப்புறம்?'

'அண்ணா, மாமியோட சொந்த பந்தங்கள் எல்லாம் வந்திருந்த நாள் அன்று கோடம்பாக்கத்திலேயிருந்து ஒரு கனத்த ஆள் கையிலே இளநி சீவற அருவாளோட வந்து கன்னாபின்னான்னு தெலுங்கு பிளஸ் மெட்ராஸ் பாஷையிலே திட்டிட்டுப் போனான். காரணம்? அவர் சிந்துலேகாவோ, சிந்தாத லேகாவோன்னு ஒரு இளம் நடிக்கைக்குக் காத்தக் கடிதம் எழுதி 'என்னை வர தையிலே கல்யாணம் பண்ணிக்கிறாயா' என்று கேட்டு விண்ணப்பித்திருந்தாராம். அப்புறம் என்ன, ஒரே கணபரம்தான். அந்த ஆள் சாமி ஆடிட்டுப் போன அப்புறம் வீடு புயல் வீசின நாக்கப்பட்டினம் மாதிரி கோரமாக ஆயிரடுச்சு. மாமியோட சித்தப்பா ரொம்ப நல்லவர். எல்லா சித்தப் பாக்களும் எட்டப்பாக்கள் இல்லை. நடிக்கை காலண்டர் குப்பைகளை எல்லாம் வாரிக் கடைசிட்டு மறுநாள் புதுசா ஒரு காலண்டரைக் கொண்டு வந்து மாட்டினார். அதைப் பார்த்து மாமி புல்லரிச்சுப் போனா. கன்னத்திலே போட்டுண்டா! அது என்ன காலண்டர்னு சொல்லுங்கோ பார்க்கலாம்?'

'போடா பொக்கே! எவ்வளவு ஓ.ஹென்றி கதை எல்லாம் எங்கிட் டே சொல்லியிருக்கே. அது லால்சந்த் கோதுவோ, கோல்சந்து யாதுவோட சிவபெருமானுடைய குடும்ப குரூப் ஃபோட்டோ ஷூட் படம்தானே?'

'அண்ணா நீங்க சித்தே எழுந்து நின்னால் இடுப்பிலே துண்டைக் கட்டிண்டு சாஷ்டாங்கமாக நமஸ்காரம் பண்ணிட்டு, என்ன பண்ணப் போறேன் தெரியுமா? புதுசா ட்ரை பண்ணி இருக்கிற குல்கந்து சுகியமும், கார்ன் பிளேக்ஸ் வடையும் கொண்டு வரப்போறேன்.'

'அட நமஸ்காரத்தை விடுடா. முதல்வே ஸ்விட் காரத்தைக் கொண்டாடா.'

jsraghavan@gmail.com

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Corporation assures BSNL coordination during roadcut jobs

By Our Staff Reporter

The Corporation has informed BSNL that it would share the details of roadcut jobs in advance so that the engineers of BSNL and the Corporation could coordinate efforts to ensure that the work is completed without affecting public utility services.

The Corporation will also share the names and numbers of the contact persons.

The move came days after DT Next reported how shoddy work by a Tangedco contractor snapped the cables of Network for Spectrum (NFS), a sensitive project that is exclusive for the defence forces, and also BSNL lines. "We hope that other government departments like Tangedco and Metrowater will also follow the same system of sharing details of roadcut works," said an official from the office of BSNL CGM V. K. Sanjeevi.

This move follows the notice served by Network for Spectrum (NFS) on EB whose workers damaged a network of fiber optic BSNL cables for a critical defence project.

Blood thinners vital for symptomatic, recovered patients

By Our Staff Reporter

With blood clots turning out to be a major health concern among COVID-19 patients and in those who have recovered from the infection, the role of anti-coagulation drugs and its administration are important while treating symptomatic patients, said doctors, calling for better awareness on the importance of the therapy.

Dr. A. Sathya (Consultant Intensivist, Rela Institute of Medical Sciences) said that it has been seen that Covid-19 leads to blood clots in lungs, brain, kidney, heart and other major organs.

"The coagulation can lead to dysfunction of the particular organ. The risk of blood clot formation can continue for about 6 to 8 weeks after infection, even after recovery", she said.

Anti-coagulation drugs help in thinning the blood and thus prevent the risk of clots, added Dr. Sathya.

According to doctors, the incidents of fatalities after recovering from the infection, mainly due to stroke, heart attack and other issues, was primarily because of the formation of blood clots.

The Health Department has started to conduct several programmes to educate doctors on anti-coagulation therapy and its significance in treating COVID-19 patients.

IIT starts online B.Sc. course

By Our Staff Reporter

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras has started the world's first online B.Sc. course in Programming and Data Science.

In the 1st batch, 8,154 students have been enrolled which includes 1,922 female and 6,232 male candidates.

The course is delivered through a state-of-the-art online portal and students are given the opportunity to participate in live sessions to clear their doubts.

For more details, visit the IIT-Madras website <https://www.iitm.ac.in/>.

Apply online for new PVC Aadhaar card

By Our Staff Reporter

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced a revamped version of the Aadhaar card made with PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride).

The card is compact in size, is waterproof and durable.

It has a digitally signed secure QR code with photograph and demographic details with multiple security features.

Aadhaar cardholders can apply for the PVC card at a fee of Rs. 50 by visiting the UIDAI Official Website using the 12 digits Aadhaar Number (UID) or 16 digits Virtual Identification Number (VID) or 28 digits Enrollment ID.

The card will be dispatched to the registered address by Speed Post.

Tree branches fall into Kittu Park



By Our Staff Reporter

Two big branches broke off from a tree and fell inside Kittu Park close to the compound wall and near the well last week. Park users have appealed to the Corporation to cut and remove the branches.

Radhatri Nethralaya performs free surgery for orphaned infant



By Our Staff Reporter

Radhatri Nethralaya (12, Hindi Prachara Sabha Street, T. Nagar. Ph: 2433 2229, 94454 38681) performed free surgery for an orphaned infant suffering from ROP (Retino-

pathy of prematurity).

The girl is under the care of an orphanage in Shillong (Meghalaya). The surgery was performed by Dr. Vasumathi

Times that ROP is a blinding condition in preterm babies.

She said that Gurupriya Vision Charitable Trust (a division of Radhatri Nethralaya) organises free surgeries for preterm babies.

PHC discount for dental treatment for senior citizens

The dental department in Public Health Centre (Lake View Road, West Mambalam), which had announced 50% discount in dental procedures for senior citizens on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, from Jan. 7 to 14, has clarified that the discount is being offered now and will be available till Pongal.

For details call 2489 3101 or 2489 7008 or 2489 3172.

Moss covers Kothandaramar Temple tank surface



By Our Staff Reporter

The surface of Kothandaramar Temple tank in Ellaiamman Koil Street, West Mambalam, which is under renovation, is covered with moss. Nearby residents complained to *Mambalam Times* that there has been an increase in mosquito infestation as the moss provides cover for mosquitoes to lay eggs. They have appealed to the Corporation to remove the moss immediately.

Encroachments, parking woes affect shoppers, residents in Pondy Bazaar



The transformation of Thyagaraya Road in Pondy Bazaar into a pedestrian plaza has redefined the shopping experience with wide footpaths, bright street lights, separate lane for cyclists, designated parking space and benches to relax.

But over the year since the plaza was inaugurated, it has drawn mixed response with problems like encroachment by street vendors, haphazard parking, roadside vending and misuse of the space by night by tipplers cropping up.

A roadside fruit seller told this reporter that as she was not allotted space in the commercial complex constructed in Pondy Bazaar for roadside vendors, so had no option but to continue selling from the pavement to eke out a living.

The traffic police are not regulating parking of vehicles, and on weekends shoppers are sometimes forced to park on the pavement or on the side lanes due to lack of space, said a shop owner. The multilevel parking facility under construction in Pondy Bazaar is getting delayed, but it may still not solve the problem. Shoppers on busy days will continue to misuse the side lanes to park, inconveniencing the residents said R. Badri (a resident of Dr. Nair Road, a bylane to Theyagaraya Road).

No parapet for canal



By Our Staff Reporter

There is no parapet for the canal running along the street connecting Vijayaraghava Road and Thyagaraya Road (T. Nagar).

The residents living on the opposite side of the street told *Mambalam Times* that the canal almost overflowed during the recent spell of heavy rains. They have appealed to Corporation officials to construct a parapet to prevent flooding of the street during heavy rains.

Offer on Spoken English classes

By Our Staff Reporter

Intuition Inspires (7/3, 3rd Cross Street, United India Colony, Kodambakkam, near Liberty Hotel), which conducts spoken English classes, is offering a dictionary, vocabulary guide and a few stationery items free to those joining the course till Jan.15.

Classroom (one to one) and online classes are conducted.

R. Harishankar (trainer), who has 15 years experience, told *Mambalam Times* that the classes are taught through Tamil as many struggle to learn English to English. All the hygiene and social distancing measures are followed in the classroom.

He also runs a youtube channel called 'native Tamil to English psychology'.

The phone numbers of the institute are 99416 47907 / 90807 10563 and Website: <http://www.intuitioninspires.in>

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Tree trunks removed after report in *Mambalam Times*



Before



Now

By Our Staff Reporter

Following report in *Mambalam Times* (November 8-14 issue), heaps of axed tree trunks that were blocking the carriageway at the junction of Habibullah Road and G. N. Chetty Road (T. Nagar) were removed by Corporation workers recently.

Fallen portion of tree trunk hinders motorists



By Our Staff Reporter

A slanting tree on Gopalakrishnamoorthy Street, T. Nagar, outside Vedanta Flats, was cut a month ago leaving a 6-ft portion of the trunk standing. This portion of the trunk toppled over during the recent rains and fell across the margin of the road.

It is blocking a third of the carriageway causing obstruction to motorists.

Boy run over by bus in MGR Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

12-year-old R. Manikandan (a Std. 6 student residing in MGR Nagar) was run over by an MTC-run mini bus on Venkatraman Road (MGR Nagar) on the night of Dec. 8.

According to police, the boy's father Rajendran is a daily wage worker. The accident happened when the boy had gone out to buy groceries at a nearby shop.

Police arrested the bus driver Sivan.

New norms reduce cab fares, increase safety

The Central government has issued new guidelines for call taxi aggregators.

Surge pricing during peak hours has been capped at 50 percent, and drivers will be under tighter scrutiny.

As per the guidelines, 80 percent of the ride fare will go to the drivers and 20 percent to aggregators.

Drivers who have been convicted of sexual offences or using drugs, among other crimes, over the past three years will not be allowed to register with aggregators such as Ola and Uber, as per the new rules. Further, drivers must undergo a complete medical examination, including an eye-check, at a hospital, and be provided insurance. The cost of the check-up and insurance will have to be borne by the aggregator.

Aggregators will also have to complete the police verification of the driver 15 days before allowing them to work. For this, the police will have to be given access to the aggregator's Application Programming Interface (API). State governments have been empowered to cancel aggregators' licenses if they do not pay drivers on time. Surge pricing, which used to shoot up to 250-300 percent, has been capped at 50 percent.

To prevent the use of stolen vehicles, the guidelines mandate that cars and autos integrated with aggregators should have valid registration certificates and other documents.

Safety features such as vehicle tracking devices, panic buttons and child locks, have to be installed.

Based on the guidelines, State governments should frame rules to issue licenses to cab aggregators, paving the way for regularisation of cab services. They have also been empowered to fix the fares and period for revision.

Of the aggregators' share, State governments are allowed to receive 2 percent of the fares for establishing and maintaining the infrastructure to monitor cab services.

Sathsangam in Giri Street next Sunday

By Our Staff Reporter

Sri Sabari Sasthangam (7/3 B, Giri Street, West Mambalam) has organised 'Sabari Sathsangam' from 5 a.m on Sunday, Dec. 20 in Shobhana Kalyana Mandapam (Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam, near Ganapathi Street).

The following is the program:

5 a.m: Ganapathi homam.

7 a.m: Mahaabhishekam.

9 a.m: Laksharchanai.

12 noon: Fruit abhishekam, arathi.

12.30 p.m: Samabandhi bhojanam.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in 98402 89122.

Minor fire in Nadigar Sangam office on Habibullah Road

By Our Staff Reporter

There was a minor fire in the office of the South Indian Artistes' Association (SIAA) (Habibullah Road, T. Nagar) at around 4 a.m on Dec. 7 in which some files were destroyed.

Fire and Rescue Services personnel from Teynampet station put out the fire.

The fire was caused by an electrical fault in the air conditioner which had been on from the previous day.

When some morning walkers noticed smoke billowing from a window, they called the fire station.

Police have registered a case and are investigating.

Gambling den busted in T. Nagar

By Our Staff Reporter

The Mambalam police on Dec. 8 raided a gambling den on Sarojini Street (T. Nagar), arrested 19 persons and seized Rs. 1.36 lakhs cash from them.

According to the police, they raided a lodge and found that the culprits were playing cards.

During inquiry, it was found that they were involved in betting.

They were later released on station bail.

Sewage water stagnating in South Boag Road



By Our Staff Reporter

Sewage water is overflowing from the manhole chamber and stagnating in the street in front of houses on South Boag Road (T. Nagar). It is also stagnating in the vacant plots on the street which is a health hazard to the nearby residents.

Garbage bins removed from playground after report in *Mambalam Times*

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Garbage bins dumped in playground' published in *Mambalam Times* (December 6-12 issue), the damaged bins dumped in the Corporation Playground on Somasundaram Street (T. Nagar) were removed.

But the playground is still misused for parking compactor lorries and other conservancy vehicles.



Before



Now

Garbage removed after report in Mambalam Times



Before



After

By Our Staff Reporter

Following the report 'Garbage dumped at junction' published in *Mambalam Times* (Dec. 6-12), a huge heap of garbage dumped at the junction of Periyar Road and Habibullah Road in T. Nagar was removed on Dec. 11.

Chennai Metro to first launch operations in Poonamallee-Power House corridor



By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Metro has made changes in the 12-km stretch which is part of one of the three corridors of the 118.9-km project.

In a major change in the Phase II plan, Chennai Metro has decided to first start operations on the 12-km elevated corridor from Poonamallee to Power House (Kodambakkam) covering Porur, Alappakkam, Valasaravakkam and Saligramam.

According to an official, the above stretch is likely to become operational in the next five years.

This is a significant change, as per the original plan, the services were to first begin in the Madhavaram to Sholinganallur and Madhavaram to CMBT corridors covering 52 km.

The 12-km stretch will have stations at Power House (Arcot Road), Saligramam, Avichi School, Alwarthirunagar, Valasaravakkam, Karambakkam, Alappakkam, Porur, Chennai Bypass, Ramachandra Hospital, Iyyapanthangal Bus Depot, Kattupakkam, Kumananchavadi, Karayanchavadi, Mullai Thottam, Poonamallee Bus Terminus and Poonamallee Bypass.

Local NPS office accepts complaints from pensioners

By Our Staff Reporter

Subscribers can file National Pension System (NPS) related concerns and complaints at the NPS office located in 6A, 6th Floor, Kences Towers, 1, Ramkrishna Street, North Usman Road, T. Nagar, Ph: 2814 3917/18.

Complaints can be filed directly in the above office or online on the website <https://enps.nsd.com/eNPS/NationalPensionSystem.html> or by calling the toll free number 2499 3499.

The complainant will be provided with a token number for follow-up.

Saree distribution, annadhaanam on Jayalalitha death anniversary



By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. Suneel (Founder, Ungalakkagha Charitable Trust, T. Nagar) distributed sarees and organized annadhaanam for 1000 women to mark the 4th death anniversary of J. Jayalalitha (former Chief Minister) on Srinivasa Street, T. Nagar on Dec. 5.

7 local Govt. school students selected for MBBS/BDS courses



7 students from Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar joined MBBS and BDS courses after getting the qualifying marks in the NEET Examination held this year. They are S. Padma Priya (Omandurar Government Medical College); J. Afrin Sifaya (Stanley Medical College); B. M. Govarthini (Chengalpattu Medical College); K. Bhavadharani (Thiruvannamalai Medical College); P. Prema (Vellore Medical College); R. Vishnu Priya (Tagore Medical College) and V. Keerthana (Ragas Dental College). The students were felicitated by the Inner Wheel Club of Madras Esplanade.

COVID-19 protection kits given to conservancy workers



By Our Staff Reporter

Inner Wheel Club of Madras Esplanade, RMD Pain and Palliative Care Trust and Tech Mahindra jointly distributed COVID-19 protection kits among 300 conservancy workers in Ashok Nagar on Dec. 9.

The kits included protective eye glasses, sanitizers and masks. Poornima Kumar (President, Inner Wheel Club), Dr. Republica Sridhar (Founder, RMD Trust) and others were present.

Damaged traffic booths dumped on road margin



Damaged traffic booths have been dumped on the road margin at the junction of Prakasam Road and Usman Road in T. Nagar, near Panagal Park. They are causing hindrance to motorists and pedestrians.

Online Thirukkural, sloka classes

S. Sriram (resident of Srinivasa Pillai Street, West Mambalam) conducts Thirukkural, Bhagwad Gita and Ramayana classes online for children in the 5-17 years age group.

He said that parents should see that their children recited slokas and thirukkural daily to help them in their studies and mould their character. For details contact Sriram in 93825 13825 or 63819 05142.

Thiruppavai Utsavam from Wednesday

By Our Staff Reporter

Being the month of Margazhi, Thiruppavai Utsavam will be conducted daily from 6.30 a.m to 8.30 a.m from Wednesday, Dec.16 to Thursday, Jan.14 in Vadamathura Kannan Temple (Postal Colony, West Mambalam, opp. post-office).

As part of the utsavam, 'Saathumurai' will be performed at 7.30 a.m. It will be followed by Anna prasadam distribution.

Devotees are welcome to perform 'naivedhanam'.

All are welcome.

Doorstep medical service available to elders

Dr. V. S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation (Old No.18A, New No. 50, Flowers Road, Kilpauk) has launched 'Elder Care Service' in association with Kalpataru Health Initiatives to support elders and their caretakers.

Most services will be provided at reasonable rates at the elders' houses by a local network of qualified doctors and paramedics.

For details, call Rajasekaran in 99949 02173 or send an email to info@drvsngeriatricfoundation.com

MMA to conduct annual convention online

Madras Management Association (MMA) has scheduled its 19th All India Management Convention on virtual mode from 9 a.m to 1.30 a.m on Thursday, December 17.

The theme of the convention is 'India Tomorrow- Road Ahead for Young Indians'.

Students are welcome to participate in the convention which will be addressed by senior corporate leaders and management professionals.

For registration, send an email to mma@mma.chennai.org or contact Dr. Venkataraman in 94447 00068 or give a missed call to 97899 60318.

Name board of school likely to fall off



By Our Staff Reporter

The name board of Greater Chennai Middle School (121, South Boag Road, T. Nagar), installed above the entrance, is hanging precariously, and likely to fall anytime.

Advanced science labs to come up in Corporation Schools

By Our Staff Reporter

Corporation will soon introduce Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) in five Corporation schools including the one in Pulla Avenue (Shenoy Nagar) to give students practical knowledge in science and robotics.

The labs will be set up at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs will be provided for its maintenance every year.

The Centrally-funded ATL is an initiative by the Niti Aayog to cultivate scientific temper among middle school students by making innovations in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

The lab will come up in of 1500 sq mts and will have 3D Printers, robotic equipment, computers and other state-of-the-art technologies.

"Students who make innovative gadgets will get to participate in National-level robotics competitions and even display them in IITs," said the official.

College students to travel free in MTC buses

By Our Staff Reporter

As there are practical difficulties in issuing new bus passes to college students, Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has allowed them to travel free till Dec. 31.

The students will have to show their college ID card to the conductor to avail the free travel.

L&T to construct Kodambakkam-Porur elevated metro line

By Our Staff Reporter

A 7.9-km elevated metro line from Power House (Kodambakkam) to Porur will be the first stretch of the phase-2 of Chennai Metro where construction will begin early next year.

The bid to construct the stretch was won by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) which emerged as the lowest bidder for the section, which is part of the 26-km corridor-4 from Lighthouse to Poonamallee.

According to an official of Chennai Metro, L&T bid Rs. 1,035.3 crores for the contract. Hindustan Construction Company Ltd- KEC International joint venture bid Rs. 1,099.15 crores and NCC Ltd bid Rs. 1,449.96 crores.

As per the tender, the chosen contractor will be expected to finish the work in 1,080 days.

The 7.9-km section will link densely populated areas with stations at Power House, Vadapalani, Saligramam, Avichi School, Alwarthirunagar, Valasaravakkam, Karambakkam, Alapakkam junction and Porur junction.

This route includes a double-decker section with metro trains to be operated on two levels to link five interchange stations as part of both corridors 4 and 5.

Leaning tree resting on compound wall



By Our Staff Reporter

A huge tree in Corporation Park (Bharathidasan Colony, K. K. Nagar) is resting on the compound all, and is likely to fall anytime. The trunk has damaged the compound wall.

Work begins on restoring Mambalam canal

By Our Staff Reporter

The Corporation and Metrowater have taken steps to restore Mambalam canal by cleaning it and stopping the sewage flow into it. It is one of the longest drains in the city that discharges excess rainwater into Adyar river. The canal at present is choked with plastic and other solid waste.

According to a Metrowater official, the canal which runs through three zones, is being cleaned using robotic excavators.

The work, which was temporarily halted due to the heavy rains, resumed on Dec. 9, he said

"We have identified more than 17 sewage outfalls, and they will be diverted to the nearest pumping station. A walking track and bicycle track has also been planned along the canal", he added.

She is documenting city's postboxes

By Our Staff Reporter

To make people understand the history of postboxes, architect Thirupurasundari Sevel (a resident of East Park Road, Shenoy Nagar) is doing a documentation project on postboxes.

"During the lockdown time, I registered for a project called Chitti Exchange (letter exchange). This project was initiated to bring back the art of letter writing. Through this, I met a group called History Hive Research and after seeing their amazing work, I decided to collaborate with them to reintroduce the concept of letter writing to locals. While working on this, I realised that after the entry of courier services, many people don't know where their post office is located. Postal history is something every individual should understand. I shared a post on social media asking people about their neighbourhood post office and only a few responded positively. That's how I started the documentation project on city postboxes", said Thirupoorasundari.

"Two history buffs, T. Jaisakthivel and Prakashraj Ganesan, started sending me pictures of the postboxes they have seen in Chennai. By documenting the postboxes, I am telling people to check out the postboxes in their locality," Thirupurasundari added.

After she started documenting, a lot of people started sending her pictures of the postboxes with a small note about the history behind it.

For example, there is a post box in New Avadi Road, Kilpauk. It is placed near a 65-year-old tree. Passers-by would have noticed the tree but not the postbox. The postbox inside the General Post Office Chennai looks like a temple. It is even called 'Kovil Postbox'.

Like this, there are many interesting trivia about post boxes.

People can write to her mentioning the most interesting post office they have visited along with the location.

Her contact number is 98404 95717.

Session on spoken English livestreamed

A session on 'Easy sentence structure and simple tenses' by Amrita Sharon, a spoken English trainer, was livestreamed on Velammal Nexus YouTube channel on Dec. 8.

Several thousand viewers witnessed the session.

Active COVID-19 cases at 1%

By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai has a 97 percent COVID-19 recovery rate with the highest discharge rate in Anna Nagar Zone as on Dec. 6. With mortality rate of around 1.8%, the active cases stand at around 1%.

According to statistics put out by the Corporation, there were 3,257 active cases in the city on Dec. 6 of which 365 were in Kodambakkam Zone.

On the same date, the Health Department tested 10,228 persons.

So far, 3,875 persons in the city have succumbed to COVID-19 of which 493 are from Teynampet Zone and 426 from Kodambakkam Zone in this neighbourhood.

Since the lockdown, the city has recorded 2,17,542 cases, of which 2,10,410 have since recovered.

In the past few weeks, only 30 per cent beds in the hospitals are occupied and the test positivity rate is 2.9 percent. Nearly, 61.18 percent of those affected with COVID-19 are male and 38.82 percent are female.

The persons in the 50-59 age group have recorded the highest infection of 20%.

MTC runs 2500 buses with 100% occupancy

By Our Staff Reports

After getting permission from the State government to operate buses with 100 percent seat occupancy, the Metropolitan Transport Corporation on Dec. 9 operated about 2,500 buses in the city following the standard operating procedures in line with pandemic norms.

Passengers were allowed to occupy all the seats after the government relaxed the norm of 60 percent occupancy to maintain social distancing.

The passengers are allowed to board only if they were wear face masks.

Blood donation camp next Sunday

By Our Staff Reporter

Tirumala Tirupathi Padayathra Trust (West Mambalam) has organised a blood donation drive at 2.30 p.m on Sunday, Dec. 20 in V.M.A. Hall, 2, Srinivasa Iyer Street, West Mambalam.

Healthy persons in the age group of 18 to 60 years can donate blood.

The blood units will be collected by Lions Blood Bank.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in 94441 45574 and 98412 41811.

Thiruvaiyaru Halwa Kadai opens

By Our staff Reporter

Thiruvaiyaru Halwa Kadai, a shop specializing in halwa, recently opened at 72/2, Brindavan Street Extension, West Mambalam.

As an inaugural offer, a combination of halwa, mixture and coffee is being offered for Rs. 39.

All sweets and snacks are available including 'Thiruvaiyaru Ashoka Palagharam' which is popular in Thiruvaiyaru town.

The manager told *Mambalam Times* that all products are prepared using good quality ingredients, especially oil and ghee.

The shop is open on all days from 9 a.m to 9 p.m.

Its phone numbers are 98412 82828, 93819 59595.

Akarmaa Foundation to start book sharing initiative

By Our Staff Reporter

On the remembrance day of the elephant doctor Dr. Krishnamurthy on Dec. 9, Akarmaa Foundation (based in Ashok Nagar) launched an initiative called Trunk Trails.

On Dec. 1, elephant Kaavan, 'former, world's loneliest elephant', had his first interaction with a fellow elephant in the Cambodia Wildlife Sanctuary, after eight years of loneliness and 35 years of captivity.

The Foundation will create a book trail based on Kaavan.

"The books will be given to interested students who, soon after reading them, should write their names and dates and pass them on to the next students. They can be their friends or schoolmates," said Kaushik of Akarmaa Foundation.

"We believe that this initiative could connect a lot of students through a single book and promote sharing and reading," he added.

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KODAMBAKKAM, 1, Viswan-athapuram Main Road, near Raghavendra Kalyana Mandapam, 900 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms flat, 2nd floor, lift, wood work, 24 hours water, security, rent Rs. 20000 (negotiable). Ph: 9841406777.

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WEST MAMBALAM, 26/2, Arangappan Street (Near Srinivasa Theatre), ground floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, covered car park, wood work, A/c, rent Rs. 16000 (negotiable), Brahmins only. Visit on Saturday & Sunday, from 10 a.m to 6 p.m. Ph: 9382503807, 97911 65632.

WEST MAMBALAM, 56, Mahadevan Street, S-1, 2nd floor, Rear Wing, Alonkar Priyadarshini Flat, 1320 sq.ft, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, dining, semi-furnished, shared small car/two wheeler parking, Brahmins only, residential purpose, rent Rs. 20000, advance 5 months, no brokers, inspection on 6th December 2020 (Sunday) between 10 a.m & 4 p.m small family/ small office preferred, Ph: 9940052364.

T. NAGAR, 9, Sivaji Street, near T. Nagar Bus Terminus/ off: South Usman Road, 2 bedrooms flat, hall, kitchen, semi-furnished, 1st floor, road side balcony, 2-wheeler parking and open car park, 24 hours metro & bore water, rent Rs. 20000. Ph: 9841229007, 2434 5468.

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Directors of sister companies in CIT Nagar held for fraud

By Our Staff Reporter

N. M. Umashankar (Chairman and Managing Director of Disc Assets Lead India Ltd, Canal Bank Road, CIT Nagar, Chennai 35), N. Arunkumar (Director) and V. Janarthanan and Saravanakumar (Directors of Dal Marketing Solutions Limited, CIT Nagar) were remanded to judicial custody for 14 days under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the FIR registered by the State Economic Offence Wing under sections 406, 420 and 120B of IPC on the basis of complaints from the investors.

It is alleged that the company had cheated its customers by collecting money to the tune of Rs. 1,137 crores with a guarantee of registering lands in their names, but cheated them.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had initiated inquiries against the company, stating that they were doing business of collective investment scheme without taking the board's permission.

Then, in order to circumvent the SEBI provision, the company started collecting money from the customers through another company named Dal Marketing Solutions Limited.

Investigation revealed that the amounts collected have been diverted in the form of investment in various subsidiaries, royalty, donations, land advance, commission, etc. to many entities that were linked to their immediate family members or other close relatives.

6-member gang posing as police robs businessman of cash, jewels

By Our Staff Reporter

K. K. Nagar police have launched a hunt for a six-member gang which, posing as cops, robbed a businessman of 48 sovereigns of jewellery, Rs. 12 lakhs in cash, a car and three mobile phones in K. K. Nagar.

In his complaint, the victim, S. P. Pandian (an LPG stove dealer and DMK functionary residing in 18th Avenue, Ashok Nagar) alleged that six men claiming to be Crime Branch sleuths, came to his house on the evening on Dec. 8 and conducted a search claiming they had information that he was dealing in country-made guns.

They ordered him and members of his family to stay in the hall while conducting the search.

While leaving, they grabbed the mobile phones and demanded his car keys and took the car away.

The police have scanned footage from the CCTV installed at the entrance of the house to identify the culprits.

Intelligent traffic system to cut halt time at city signals

By Our Staff Reporter

Motorists at major junctions need not waste time or fuel as the Corporation will soon introduce automated traffic signals under the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITS) to adjust signal durations based on traffic flow. ITS is part of Smart City Mission.

At present, the traffic signals are set manually. Under ITS, cameras will be placed along the major roads and data will be sent to the specially developed software, which will operate the signals, a Corporation official said.

Of the 491 traffic junctions in the city, the civic body has identified 165 junctions including major junction in T. Nagar and West Mambalam.

Cameras will also be placed at accident-prone spots.

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Herbal saplings distributed



By Our Staff Reporter

B. Saradha (Principal, Cambridge Higher Secondary School, Saidapet) distributed herbal saplings among teachers, parents and the general public under the school's 'Cam Green' program on Dec. 8.

Protruding bolts on pavement pose danger



By Our Staff Reporter

Four threaded bolts are protruding 4 inches above the surface of the pavement of Postal Colony 2nd Street, West Mambalam. They pose a danger to pedestrians, especially at night. The bolts were in the base of a street light post which was removed long ago.

Vijayaraghava Road-Dr. Narasimhan Road junction battered



By Our Staff Reporter

The junction of Vijayaraghava Road and Dr. Narasimhan Road (T. Nagar) is in bad condition. The surface was washed off after the recent spell of rains. The surface is battered, uneven and unsafe for motorists.

Drone used to monitor river banks

By Our Staff Reporter

When many localities in T. Nagar and surrounding areas were water-logged last week, Corporation officials used a drone to monitor the canal banks in the neighbourhood that discharge excess rain water into Adyar river.

With water from Chembarambakkam lake released, Adyar was in spate and sending field staff to inspect the river banks was risky.

The drone relayed high resolution video footage from the banks of the river and of points of the canal near Saidapet.

In the footage, official located blocks in the canal and then proceeded to check upstream areas to find if drains on roads had been encroached upon.

Jaimaa Charitable Trust award for achievers



Jaimaa Charitable Trust (Vadapalani, Chennai) presented 'Jaimaa Achievers Award' to several persons at a function on Dec. 8 in Cambridge Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Saidapet as part of its 4th year celebrations.

Jaimaa Trust has been rendering service to needy persons including leprosy-affected

patients and physically challenged persons for the past several years.

The awards were presented by S. Jayasundari (President, Jaimaa Trust).

The following were the awardees:

B. Saradha (Correspondent, Cambridge Higher Secondary School, West Saidapet): 'Lifetime Achiever and Iron Lady'

award.

Raghunath Ramarao (Managing Trustee, Kalpavrisa Trust): 'Best Social Worker' award.

Uma Raj (Founder, Sugha Trust): 'Women Empowerment and Rural Development Award'.

P. Kalaiselvi (Founder, Kalai Agencies): 'Best Cleaning Product Trainer Award'.

Mohana Mano (Founder, Princess Beauty Academy): 'Best Beautician Trainer Award'.

Rani Manoharan (Founder, M. R. Creation, Arumbakkam): 'Best Craft Trainer Award'.

Nisha Ghose (Director, Nisha Ghose Make-Up Studio): 'Top 10 Best Celebrity Make-Up Artiste Award'.

Man dies after falling into water-covered pit in Kodambakkam

By Our Staff Reporter

56-year-old Narasimhan, out on a walk with his friend, died minutes after he tripped and fell into a pit filled with rain water on the service lane of Kodambakkam Bridge, near Hotel Pratap Plaza, Arcot Road at around 7.30 a.m on Dec. 9.

He was taken to a private hospital where he was declared brought dead by the doctors.

As the water-covered pit was not visible, Narasimhan stepped in the stagnant water and fell into the pit.

According to the police, the CCTV footage of the incident suggested that the victim fainted just before falling into the pit. He worked as a driver in an advocate's office. The Nungambakkam police registered a case and further investigation is on.



Siblings enter 'India Book of Records'

By Our Staff Reporter

9-year-old R. Samhita (Std. 3 student in B. S. Mootha Girls Senior Secondary School, West Mambalam) entered the 'India Book of Records' for drawing the portrait of Tamil poetess Avvaiyar in 3 minutes and 23 seconds while reciting 109 Aathichoodi verses written by the poet.

Her sister 4-year-old R. Dhanyata (Std.1) also entered the 'India Book of Records' for reciting the 109 Aathichoodi verses in 2 minutes and 3 seconds.



R. Samhita



R. Dhanyata

If anything interesting is happening in your neighbourhood please inform Mambalam Times.

Anna Nagar Zone leads COVID-19 recovery rate

By Our Staff Reporter

With the active COVID-19 cases dropping to 1%, Anna Nagar Zone has recorded the highest recovery rate with 23,018 out of 23456 patients getting cured as on Dec. 8.

As per statistics released by the Corporation on Dec. 8, there were 376 active cases in Anna Nagar Zone and 438 persons have died.

Nearly, 61.19 percent of those affected are male and 38.81 percent are female.

Velammal hosts 'Dough art activity'

Velammal Vidyalaya Annexure, Mel Ayanambakkam, conducted 'Dough art activity' for its students to give them an opportunity to exhibit their creativity and talent and improve their motor skills.

The large number of students who participated used their imagination to create scenery, flower arrangement and other designs like animals, birds, idols etc. using colourful dough.

For details, contact: 80560 63519.

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